

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A fuel tank comprising:

an exterior shell formed by at least two tank portions assembled together, and made of molded plastics material, one of said tank portions comprising a compartment, the compartment being one-piece with the one of said tank portions, and

a fuel pump located entirely within the shell and fixed into the compartment.
2. (Original) A tank according to claim 1, wherein the shell of the tank has no through orifice suitable for enabling a fitting to be inserted into the inside of the tank.
3. (Original) A tank according to claim 1, in which the fuel pump has a body, wherein the shell of the tank has no through orifice of section greater than the section of the fuel pump body.
4. (Original) A tank according to claim 1, wherein the fuel tank has no through orifice in register with the fuel pump.
5. (Original) A tank according to claim 1, including at least one fitting such as a fuel gauge fixed to the inside surface of the tank and separate from said fuel pump.
6. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein the compartment is placed at a low point of the tank, wherein one of the tank portions includes a filler tube having an end through which the fuel leaves positioned in such a manner that, during filling, the fuel drops in the compartment.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, including support means for supporting the pump and to avoid transmitting vibration from the pump to the tank.

10. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, comprising a central portion configured to receive the pump, and fins attached to the central portion and configured to be fixed to a wall of said compartment.

11. (Original) A tank according to claim 1, wherein the two tank portions are made by injection molding a thermoplastic material.

12. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tank portions has fixing means for enabling a fitting to be fixed inside the tank, said fixing means being integrally molded out of the same material as said at least one tank portion.

13. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tank portions comprises at least one wall projecting into the inside of the tank for enabling a fitting to be fixed inside the tank, said at least one wall being integrally molded out of the same material as said at least one tank portion.

14. (Original) A tank according to claim 13, wherein the wall has at least one recess suitable for receiving a fixing member of the fitting.

15. (Original) A tank according to claim 13, wherein said wall has at least one tooth for snap-fastening in a recess of the fitting.

16. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the tank portions includes a housing enabling a fitting to be fixed on the tank from outside the tank, said housing being defined by a wall integrally molded with the at least one tank portion.

17. (Original) A tank according to claim 16, wherein said fitting is a fuel filter.

18. (Original) A tank according to claim 16, wherein said fitting is a canister.

19. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein one of the tank portions substantially forms a bottom half while the other substantially forms a top half.

20. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein a bottom portion of the tank includes a housing defined by a wall integrally molded out of the same material as said bottom portion, and configured for receiving a fuel filter.

21. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein a top portion of the tank includes a housing defined by a wall integrally molded out of the same material as said top portion, for receiving a canister.

22. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein an inside surface of the tank includes substantially vertical ribs.

23. (Original) A tank according to claim 22, wherein at least one rib has a passage passing through its base to allow fuel to flow therethrough.

24. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, including a fuel gauge fixed to an inside surface of the tank.

25. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, including a pressure regulator fixed to the inside surface of the tank close to a low point.

26. (Previously Presented) A tank according to claim 1, wherein the tank portions are assembled together by at least one of adhesive or by heat-sealing.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a fuel tank, the method comprising the following steps:

a) making at least two tank portions out of plastics material by molding, one of said tank portions comprising a compartment, the compartment being one-piece with the one of said tank portions;

b) fixing a fuel pump into the compartment; and

c) assembling the tank portions together in order to form an exterior shell, said pump being located entirely within the shell.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 27, wherein the two tank portions are made by injection molding a thermoplastic material.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein one of the tank portions forms a bottom portion of the tank, and wherein the following are fixed to the inside surface of said bottom portion:

the fuel pump;
a pressure regulator; and
a fuel gauge.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein one of the tank portions forms a top portion of the tank, and wherein the following are fixed to the inside surface of said top portion:

a check valve;
a filler tube; and
a degassing duct.

31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A fuel tank comprising:

an exterior shell formed by at least an upper and lower tank portion assembled together, and made of molded plastics material, the lower tank portion comprising a compartment, the compartment being monolithically molded with the lower tank portion, and

a fuel pump located entirely within the shell and fixed into the monolithically molded compartment,

wherein the monolithically molded compartment is placed at a low point of the tank, the upper tank portion includes a filler tube having an end positioned in such a manner that, during filling, the fuel drops from the filler tube into the monolithically molded compartment.

33. (New) The fuel tank of claim 32, wherein the shape of the monolithically molded compartment is configured such that, when a remainder of the tank is empty, an amount of fuel may remain within the monolithically molded compartment sufficient to prime the fuel pump.

34. (New) A method of manufacturing a fuel tank, the method comprising the following steps:

a) making at least an upper and lower tank portion out of plastic material by molding, the lower tank portion comprising a compartment, the compartment being monolithic with the lower tank portion;

b) fixing a fuel pump into the monolithic compartment; and

c) assembling at least the upper and lower tank portions together in order to form an exterior shell, said pump being located entirely within the shell,

wherein the monolithic compartment is placed at a low point of the tank, the upper tank portion includes a filler tube having an end positioned in such a manner that, during filling, the fuel drops from the filler tube into the monolithically molded compartment.